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MAD CAVE

DICK TRACY®

#8

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RITZ
SCREEEEECH

RITZ

HUH. WELL WHAT'VE WE GOT HERE, EH?

TAKIN' A LITTLE BREAK, *FANGS?*

SORRY TO DISTURB YA.

THWACK

BUT I THINK YOU HAVE *A LOT* OF EXPLAINING TO DO.

NGGGHHHHH... YOU GOT...SOME NERVE...

...COMING HERE TO MY CLUB LIKE YOU *OWN* THE PLACE.

OOOOF!

IS THAT YOUR LINE? WE'RE SUPPOSED TO BELIEVE IT'S A *COINCIDENCE* YOU CAME INTO TOWN--

THUMP

--JUST AS THE BODIES START TO DROP?

KRRRRK

ERK!

GIVE ME ONE GOOD REASON, FANGS--ONE LITTLE DETAIL THAT PROVES YOU'RE NOT *THE BLANK.*

DETECTIVE PATTON, I DON'T EVEN KNOW WHAT YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT.

THWAP

OOOOF!

AND I DON'T CARE IF YOU'RE A COP OR NOT, Y'HEAR?

BOSS, WHAT--YOU OKAY?

WHOZZAT OVER THERE?

I'M GOOD, BOYS-- JUST FINE.

WHAT THE HELL HAPPENED?

YEAH, YOU WANT US TO GO AFTER HIM?

NO, NO--HANG BACK.

SOMETHING TELLS ME OUR FRIEND PAT MIGHT BE RUNNING FROM HIS OWN MISTAKES.

GET BACK TO WORK, ALL RIGHT? LET A MAN ENJOY A CIGARETTE IN PEACE.

UNBELIEVABLE...TWO-BIT COP, ROUGHING ME UP LIKE I'M SOME STREET HOOD.

WHAT--

SHUNK

--UUUHHHH...

FANGS FOREMAN.

DID YOU NOT KNOW...

URK... UKKK... HELP...

...THAT HUBRIS COMES WITH A PRICE TAG?

...UHHHKKK....

THE HIDEAWAY.

THE KIND OF DOWNTOWN CLUB ONLY THE CRIMINALLY RICH CAN AFFORD--AND USUALLY NOT FOR LONG.

LOOKS LIKE YOU'VE GOT A VISITOR, BREATHLESS.

IS IT A DAY ENDING IN 'Y', JIMMY?

DIDN'T THINK I'D FIND YOU HERE, BREATHLESS...

EVEN BAD GIRLS GET THE NIGHT OFF, TRACY.

AND, HELL, I COULD ASK THE SAME OF YOU. THIS ISN'T YOUR USUAL KIND OF JOINT. NOT SURE THEY SERVE MILK AROUND HERE.

I NEED YOUR HELP.

I'M ALL EARS, DETECTIVE.

WHAT DO YOU KNOW ABOUT *THE BLANK?*

THE BLANK? AND HERE I THOUGHT YOU WANTED TO BUY ME A DRINK.

YOU KNOW EXACTLY WHAT I'M TALKING ABOUT. THE BLANK IS SLICING A BLOODY GASH THROUGH THIS CITY.

AND HE'S TARGETING PEOPLE LIKE ***YOU.***

PEOPLE WHO JUST MIGHT BE TRYING TO ERASE A RACKETEERING RAP.

THAT'S THE PROFILE FOR THIS GUY--THE BLANK IS GUNNING DOWN CRIMINALS WITH TIES TO THE OLD MANLIS GANG.

TRACY, TRACY, TRACY--YOU'RE ALL BUSINESS. HOW DO YOU DO IT? WALK THE STRAIGHT AND NARROW LIKE IT'S YOUR ONLY OPTION?

DON'T YOU EVER WANT TO... STEP OUT? DO SOMETHING ***NAUGHTY?***

I CAN'T AFFORD THAT, BREATHLESS.

IF THERE'S ONE THING I LEARNED IN THE WAR--SERVING OUT THERE, SEEING PEOPLE BOMBED AND RIDDLED WITH BULLETS, IT'S THAT YOU HAVE TO ***LET GO.***

LET PART OF YOURSELF HIDE AWAY AND ***NEVER*** COME OUT.

WELL, THERE ***IS*** A HEART TICKING UNDER THERE. ALL RIGHT. I'LL HELP YOU, TRACY.

BUT YOU'LL OWE ME--AND BREATHLESS MAHONEY COLLECTS HER DEBTS.

I'LL MEET YOU AT YOUR PLACE AT MIDNIGHT. I'LL LEAVE FIRST.

WOULDN'T WANT ANYONE TO GET THE ***WRONG*** IDEA...

GOD FORBID...

ONE THING MY FATHER ALWAYS TOLD ME, "TESS, SOMETIMES YOU HAVE TO JUST DO THE WORK YOURSELF."

AND IF THAT STICK IN THE MUD TRACY DOESN'T WANT ME MEDDLING WITH *HIS* CASE, HE'S GONNA BE VERY DISAPPOINTED.

TRUEHEART? WHAT--YOU *CAN'T* BE IN HERE...!

DENBROUGH, LOSE THE TONE, WILL YOU? I NEED SOME HELP-- AND YOU'RE THE BEST CANDIDATE TO GIVE IT TO ME.

I'LL BE QUICK, SINCE I KNOW YOU DON'T WANT TO BE SEEN WITH THE LIKES OF ME.

THE BLANK. I WANT THE FILES ON HIS VICTIMS. AND I WANT TO KNOW WHO'S BEEN LOOKING THROUGH THEM.

LOOK, YOU KNOW I CAN'T DO THAT. THEY'D HAVE MY HEAD FOR SOMETHING LIKE THIS..

THAT'S THE RUB, DENBROUGH--YOU *CAN* DO THAT. AND YOU *HAVE.*

NOW LET'S NOT ACT LIKE YOU'RE SOME BASTION OF ETHICS. WHAT'LL IT BE THIS TIME? TEN? TWENTY? I'M ON A DEADLINE, SO LET'S MOVE QUICK--

ALL RIGHT, ALL RIGHT--PUT THE MONEY AWAY. I CAN'T DO THAT HERE. I'LL TELL YOU WHAT YOU WANT--JUST *LEAVE.*

ATTABOY. I ***KNEW*** YOU'D COME AROUND.

YOU'RE OUTTA LUCK, THOUGH-- PRETTY MUCH ANY DETECTIVE CAN CHECK THOSE FILES. AND EVERYONE HAS, AT LEAST ONCE.

BUT THERE'S ONE GUY WHO'S BEEN SPENDING A LOT OF TIME GOING OVER WHO THE BLANK'S BEEN SLICING AND DICING.

IT'S ***PATTON.*** HE'S BEEN SPENDING EVERY FREE MINUTE PORING OVER THOSE PICTURES AND PAGES--TAKING LOTS AND LOTS OF NOTES...

...PAT? PAT'S BEEN SEARCHING THOSE FILES?

"SEARCHING IS AN ***UNDERSTATEMENT.*** HE'S BEEN READING THEM LIKE SOMEONE WITH A PERSONAL STAKE IN IT ALL.

"LIKE THESE MURDERS REALLY ***MEANT*** SOMETHING TO HIM."

MIDNIGHT.

BREATH...ER, MS. MAHONEY?

Exion CHEMICALS COME ALONE NOW! THE BLANK

YOU CAN STOP RIGHT THERE, DETECTIVE.

NOT ANOTHER STEP FORWARD.

DID YOU KNOW, OH GREAT DETECTIVE, THAT YOUR NEW FRIEND HERE, BREATHLESS--WHICH IS **NOT** HER REAL NAME, BY THE WAY-- HAS A CRIMINAL RECORD DATING BACK TO HER YOUTH?

THEFT, ASSAULT, MORE THEFT, ***FRAUD***-- THERE'S VERY LITTLE SHE WON'T DO.

BUT I GET THE FEELING YOU MIGHT ALREADY KNOW THAT.

LISTEN, I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU ***WANT***, BUT I'M WILLING TO ***LISTEN***--

--LET BREATHLESS GO, AND--

TRACY, LISTEN TO YOURSELF. YOU'RE TRYING TO BARGAIN WITH ME--

--BUT YOU HAVE ***NOTHING*** I WANT.

BUT I DO HAVE SOMETHING FOR YOU--

--A CHOICE.

YOU SEE, I RIGGED THE BINDS THAT HOLD BREATHLESS'S ARMS. IF THEY BLOW...

...DOWN SHE GOES.

YOU TWISTED SON-OF-A--

AH AH AH.

I'D BE CAREFUL WHAT YOU SAY, BOY SCOUT. I WOULDN'T WANT YOU TO LOSE ANY MERIT BADGES BY USING SUCH UNBECOMING LANGUAGE.

NOW, YOU HAVE A DECISION TO MAKE. I'M GOING TO WALK AWAY. DO YOU COME AFTER ME AND RISK THE LIFE OF A DIRTY LOUNGE SINGER...

...OR DO YOU LET A KILLER GO IN ORDER TO SAVE A LIFE THAT'S HARDLY WORTH SAVING?

HE'S RIGHT, TRACY! LEAVE ME! TAKE THIS LUNATIC DOWN!

YOU MUST CHOOSE ONE OR THE OTHER. YOU CANNOT HAVE BOTH.

WILL IT BE JUSTICE...

...OR YOUR OWN PERSONAL *DESIRE?*

LISTEN, HONEY. YOU CAN BUY ME A DRINK ANYTIME. BUT LET'S BE CLEAR ABOUT ONE THING--

--THIS IS A ***ONE-WAY*** TRANSACTION. YOU'RE BUYING ***ME*** SOMETHING. THAT DOESN'T MEAN YOU GET SOMETHING IN RETUR--

--HEY, WAIT. IS THAT--

OH, MY GOD...

FANGS?!

HELP! WE NEED SOME HELP HERE!

NNNNNGGGGHHHH...

WHO WHO DID THIS TO YOU? WHAT HAPPENED?!

DICK... TRACY...

DICK TRACY DID THIS?!

I NEED... GET...ME...

...DICK TRACY...

DICK, NO! I TOLD YOU, GO AFTER THAT SICK--

THERE'LL BE TIME FOR THAT...

...AND THERE'S TIME FOR THIS, TOO.

COME HERE...

LET ME SEE YOUR HANDS.

YOU'RE TIED UP PRETTY WELL, AND--

--OH MY GOD.

THERE'S NO TIME. THE EXPLOSIVE, IT--

RUN. RUN, TRACY! GET OUT OF HERE WHILE--

DO YOU TRUST ME?

DO I... WHY?

BECAUSE...

...I'M NOT LETTING YOU GO!

HEY!

LISTEN--WHEN YOU SWING BACK, PUSH YOUR MOMENTUM TOWARD ME. UNDERSTAND? DON'T FIGHT IT!

YEAH, I-I GOT IT.

00:02

GET READY, AND...

...NOW!

BLAM

AAAAAHHH!

GOTCHA!

I'VE GOT YOU.

YOU CERTAINLY DO.

BOOOOM

SO...WHAT NOW?

NOW?

NOW I GO FIND THE BLANK--AND GIVE HIM THE JUSTICE HE DESERVES.

"OKAY...OKAY. THIS IS PAT, YOU *KNOW HIM.*"

THERE HAS TO BE AN EXPLANATION. THERE HAS TO BE A *REASON.*

JUST ASK HIM. JUST *ASK--*

UM... HEY, PAT? PAT!

ARE YOU IN--

--THERE?

PAT, ARE YOU HOME? IS EVERYTHING...

...IS EVERYTHING OKAY?

PAT, ARE YOU IN--

--PAT...

WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?!

IS THERE ANY PLACE YOU CAN STAY TONIGHT? MAYBE A HOTEL? YOUR APARTMENT PROBABLY ISN'T SAFE, AT LEAST FOR NOW.

YEAH...

...I CAN THINK OF ONE PLACE I'D LIKE TO STAY TONIGHT.

CALLING DICK TRACY! COME IN DICK TRACY!

TRACY HERE.

SORRY TO BOTHER YOU, DETECTIVE, BUT I THOUGHT YOU'D LIKE TO KNOW.

KNOW WHAT?

THE BLANK SPREE KILLER, SIR...

...THE BLANK STRUCK AGAIN.

I'M ON MY WAY.

MAKE WAY, FOLKS--

--OH MY GOD...

...FANGS.

WHEN THEY CALLED, I DIDN'T KNOW IT WAS YOU. WHY ARE YOU STILL HERE? YOU SHOULD BE AT A HOSPITAL, WHERE DOCTORS CAN PROPERLY--

NEED TO... SOMETHING YOU NEED...TO KNOW...

L-LOOK, PAT. I'M SORRY I-I SHOULDN'T HAVE JUST--

NO, YOU SHOULDN'T HAVE. THIS IS WHERE I *LIVE*, TESS. YOU CAN'T JUST COME--

I-I KNOW, BUT...

...I NEED TO... TO TALK TO YOU. THERE'S FILES-- FILES ON FANGS'S MEN. THE ONES WHO'VE BEEN *KILLED.*

WHY WERE YOU LOOKING AT THEM?

I KNOW... WHO THE SPREE KILLER... IS...

...YOU'RE GONNA LOVE THIS... TRACY...

YOU JUST DON'T KNOW HOW TO LEAVE THINGS ALONE, DO YOU, TESS?

YOU JUST CAN'T *MIND YOUR OWN BUSINESS.*

HE TRIED... TO KILL ME... TONIGHT.

WHO? WHO TRIED TO KILL YOU?

I THINK I SHOULD... I SHOULD LEAVE...

NO, TESS...

"IT'S YOUR *PARTNER,* TRACY..."

PAT PATTON... *DETECTIVE* PAT...PATTON...

"...THAT'S HIM. THAT'S *THE BLANK.*"

...YOU'RE NOT GOING *ANYWHERE.*

To Be Continued...

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THE PALE KNIGHT

#1

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THEY LEAVE A CONTINENT WHERE A NEW AND TERRIBLE FORM OF DEATH HAS APPEARED.

AND EACH DAY ADVANCES MANY MILES.

NAPLES IS A CHARNEL HOUSE, DESERTED EVEN BY THE BIRDS.

AVIGNON HAS RUN OUT OF CEMETERIES.

IN PARIS, A LARGE AND BRIGHT STAR IS SEEN, PRESAGING DAYS OF GREAT SORROW.

ENGLAND MIGHT THINK ITS ISLAND STATUS WILL SPARE IT FROM THE RAVAGES OF THE CONTAGION.

BUT ENGLAND IS ABOUT TO GET A NASTY SHOCK. DEATH IS COMING.

ONE OF ENGLAND'S GREATEST KNIGHTS-- SIR HUGH DE GREY, HERO OF ARTOIS--AT THAT MOMENT WISHES FOR NOTHING **BUT** DEATH.

UGHH AAAGHH!

HE TRIES TO FORGET THE HEAVING OF BOTH THE SHIP AND HIS STOMACH BY LISTENING TO THE PRAYERS OF THE OTHER MEN.

BESEECHING GOD TO SAVE THEM FROM THE UNNATURAL WAVES.

THE LOWEST SCOUNDREL CALLS OUT TO HIS MAKER.

NOT SO LONG AGO, SIR HUGH, TOO, WOULD HAVE BOWED DOWN BEFORE GOD.

NOW HE SIMPLY **RESTS.**

AND WISHES FOR NOTHING MORE THAN SLEEP.

WITH SLEEP COMES THE DREAM THAT HAS HAUNTED HIM FOR DAYS.

AND HE IS BACK IN FRANCE.

IN ARTOIS.

IN HELL.

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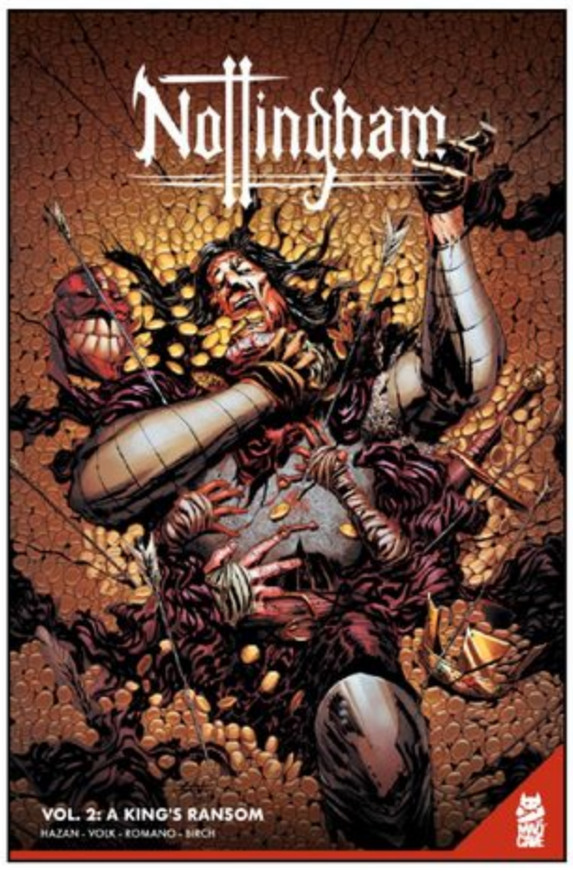

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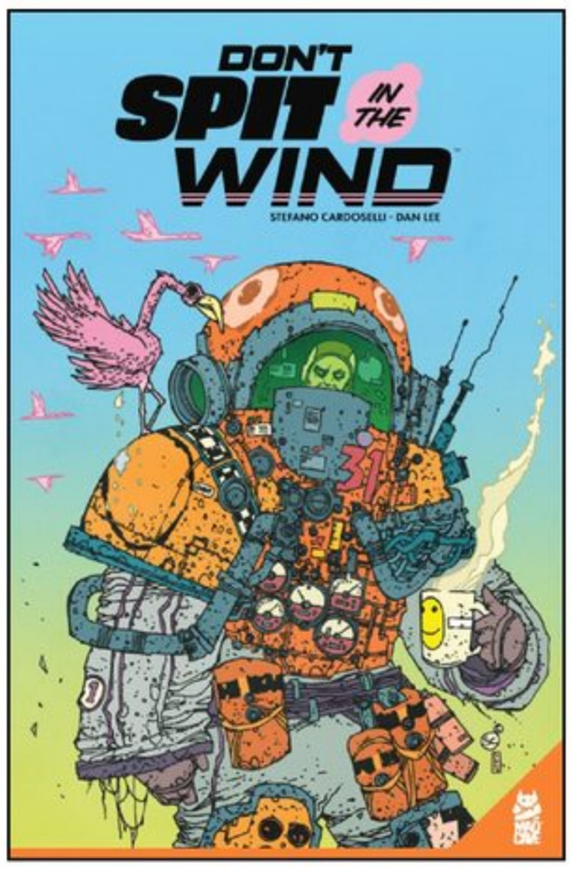

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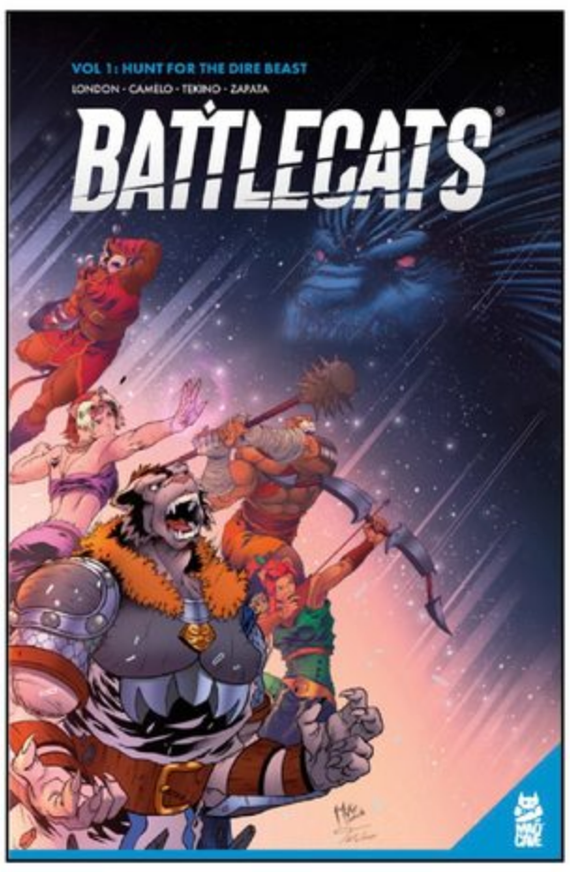

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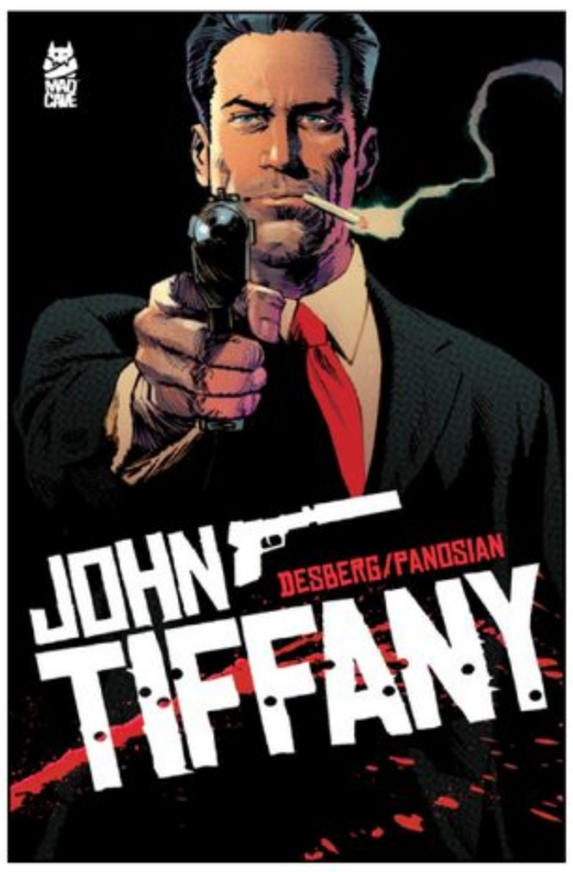

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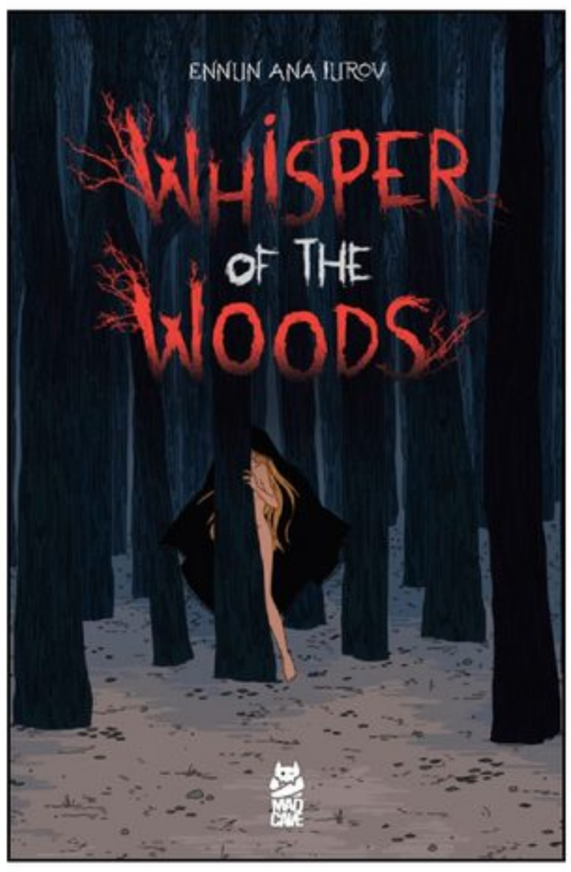

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